



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/071,628 Confirmation No. 2337
Applicant : Hiroshi Abe
Filed : February 8, 2002
Title : SMALL APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING CIRCULAR PLATE
OBJECTS
TC/A.U. : 3653
Examiner : Mark J. Beauchaine
Docket No. : 1800.00009
Customer No. : 29747

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**SUPPLEMENTAL REISSUE APPLICATION DECLARATION
BY THE ASSIGNEE**

The undersigned, Hiroshi Abe, an officer of Asahi Seiko Co. Ltd., the Assignee of record of the entire interest in the above-identified application by assignment recorded at Reel 9611, Frame 0525, hereby declares that:

1. I am authorized to act on behalf of the Assignee.
2. The title of my position with said Assignee is President and CEO.
3. I believe the mailing address and citizenship of the inventors are as follows:

Hiroshi Abe
3-7, Kobaba 1-chome,
Iwatsuki-shi, Saitama, JAPAN
Citizenship: Japan

Noboru Ichihara
3-7, Kobaba 1-chome,
Iwatsuki-shi, Saitama, JAPAN
Citizenship: Japan

4. I believe said inventors to be the original and first inventors of the subject matter which is described and claimed in said Patent No. 6,099,402, issued on August 8, 2000, for which a reissue patent is sought on the above-identified invention the specification of which

was filed on February 8, 2002 as reissue Application No. 10/071,628 and was amended on August 13, 2003.

5. I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

6. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

7. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f) § 365(b) of the foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date
9-287541	Japan	09/12/1997
9-291470	Japan	09/18/1997
9-370005	Japan	12/19/1997

8. I hereby appoint the following attorneys and agents of the law firm Quirk & Tratos (Customer No. 29747) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

R. Richard Costello (Reg. No. 51,583)

Rob L. Phillips (Reg. No. 40,305)

Carrie E. Peterman (Reg. No. 52,113)

Edward J. Quirk (Reg. No. 23,018)

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:

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SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO :

Quirk & Tratos
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

9. All errors which are being corrected in this reissue application up to the time of filing of this oath/declaration arose without any deceptive intention on the part of applicant.

10. I believe the original patent to be wholly or partly inoperative or invalid by reason of the patentee claiming more or less than he had the right to claim in the patent. The common central-axis alignment is unique over the prior art cited and is worthy of patent protection.

The functional elements of the claims are a disc means, means for rotating said disc means, gear means and drive means having a common central-axis line. The original patent claims do not recite the common central-axis alignment disclosed in the specification.

A. Status of Claims and Support for Claim Changes:

The patent as issued contained 7 claims. All of these claims are pending in the application; none have been canceled. In addition, the application as filed contains new claims 8-11. No amendments have been made with respect to claims 1 through 7 which were in the original patent.

In addition, there are no issues with respect to support in the specification for the new claims. Nonetheless, a copy of the Status of Claims and Support for Claim Changes is attached hereto, with notations adjacent to each claim number indicating the location in the original patent of support for the claim.

B. Preliminary Statement

The subject invention relates to an apparatus for dispensing circular plate objects, such as coins or tokens. The functional elements of the claim are a disc means, means for rotating said disc means, gear means and drive means having a common central-axis line. The original patent claims do not recite the common central-axis alignment disclosed in the specification. The patentee believes the common central-axis alignment is unique over the prior art cited and is worthy of patent protection. Similarly, the magnetic cover disc attachment means are not recited in the claims of the original patent but are supported therein.

Claims 1, 2, and 6 of the original patent application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hughes et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,711,704 (the '704 Patent) to Hughes teaches a coin storage and dispensing apparatus. However, the original rejected

claims did not recite the common central-axis line present in the apparatus. The common central-axis limitation is present in claims 8-10.

New claim 11 includes a cover disc attachment means consisting of a magnet. The cover disc and disc means combination was originally declared obvious over Hughes et al. in view of Henderickson et al. However, the cited references did not suggest or teach the use of a magnet to attach the cover disc to the disc means. The Examiner indicated that the magnetic attachment means including other limitations of the base claim and intervening claims was allowable subject matter. New claim 11 recites the magnetic attachment means in combination with the additional limitations.

No reference known to applicant discloses an apparatus for dispensing circular plates having a common central-axis line between the disc means, rotating means, gear means and drive means or a magnetic cover disc attachment means.

C. Status of Claims and Support for Claim Changes:

CLAIM	STATUS	SUPPORT IN DISCLOSURE FOR CHANGES
1	Pending	
2	Pending	
3	Pending	
4	Pending	
5	Pending	
6	Pending	
7	Pending	
8	New	Column 2, lines 22-25; Column 4, lines 50-57; and Figs. 1, 2 and 3
9	New	Column 3, lines 53-55
10	New	Column 3, lines 23-25; and Figs. 3, 4A and 4B
11	New	Column 5, lines 19-60; and Figs. 6, 7, 8A and 8B

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and

that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this declaration is directed.

ASSIGNEE:

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January 11, 2005
(Date)

Hiroshi Abe
(Signature)

Hiroshi Abe
(Print Name)

President and CEO
(Title)